

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A universal remote control device for effecting a same function on a plurality of different remotely controlled devices, comprising:

a housing;

an actuator within the housing;

a database of encoded signals for effecting the same function on said plurality of different remotely controlled devices; and

a signal emitter configured to emit the encoded signals so as to effect the same function for each of said plurality of different devices in response to actuation of the actuator with no more than ½ second between each encoded signal.

2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the same function is to power the device off.

3. The device of Claim 1, wherein the same function is to mute the device.

4. The device of Claim 1, wherein the device effects the same function on at least five different remotely controlled devices.

5. The device of Claim 1, wherein the device effects the same function on at least ten different remotely controlled devices.

6. The device of Claim 1, wherein the device effects the same function on at least twenty different remotely controlled devices.

7. The device of Claim 1, wherein the device is a television.

8. The device of Claim 1, wherein the device is a stereo or a video player, such as a VCR or DVD player.

9. The device of Claim 1, wherein the housing is configured to resemble a smiley face.

10. The device of Claim 9, wherein the actuator is a button on the smiley face.

11. The device of Claim 10, wherein the button is a nose on the smiley face.

12. The device of Claim 9, wherein the signal emitter is an eye on the smiley face.

13. The device of Claim 1, additionally comprising a second signal emitter.

14. The device of Claim 13, wherein both signal emitters are eyes on a smiley face.

15. The device of Claim 1, wherein the signal emitter is an infrared (IR) light emitting diode (LED).

16. The device of Claim 1, wherein there is no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ second between each encoded signal.

17. The device of Claim 1, wherein there is no more than $\frac{1}{10}$ second between each encoded signal.

18. The device of Claim 1, wherein the device controls only a single function.

19. The device of Claim 1, wherein the device is in the form of a keychain.

20. A method for effecting a function of a remotely controlled device, comprising:
pointing a universal remote device in the direction of the remotely controlled device, said universal remote device comprising a database of encoded signals for effecting the function on a plurality of different remotely controlled devices;

actuating an actuator on the universal remote device, thereby causing the device to send the encoded signals from the database to a signal emitter on the universal remote device; and

emitting the encoded signals from the signal emitter so as to effect the function on said remotely controlled device without selecting a set of encoded signals for the universal remote device.

21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the encoded signals are sent only a single time to the signal emitter.

22. The method of Claim 20, wherein the signals emitted are infrared light.

23. The method of Claim 20, further comprising pointing the universal remote device in the direction of a second remotely controlled device and repeating the actuating and emitting steps.

24. The method of Claim 20, wherein the function effected is powering off the device.

25. The method of Claim 20, wherein the function effected is muting the device.

26. The method of Claim 20, further comprising pointing the universal remote device in the direction of the remotely controlled device a second time and repeating the actuating and emitting steps.

27. The method of Claim 26, wherein the function is reversed upon repeating the actuating and emitting steps.

28. The method of Claim 27, wherein the remotely controlled device is turned on when the function is reversed.

29. The method of Claim 20, wherein the encoded signals are emitted with less than $\frac{1}{2}$ second between each encoded signal.

30. The method of Claim 20, wherein the encoded signals are emitted with less than $\frac{1}{4}$ second between each encoded signal.

31. The method of Claim 20, wherein the encoded signals are emitted with less than $\frac{1}{10}$ second between each encoded signal.